

**MINUTES**  
**SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY BOARD**  
**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**  
**City Hall, Room 310**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dean Gerondale, Heidi Michel, Renee Keehan, Kathy De Cremer, Ben Heiman

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kristen K. Bohnert, Assistant City Attorney, Ald. Randy Scannell, Ald. David Nennig

The meeting was called to order by Dean Gerondale.

D. Gerondale stated he would like a police officer sent to 210 S. Maple Avenue, Apt. A regarding Othello Mills. If he is living there, he is in violation of the city ordinance and he and the landlord should be fined.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the August 12, 2015 Minutes of the Sex Offender Residency Board meeting

Motion made by R. Keehan to approve the August 12, 2015 Minutes, seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

**2. APPEALS**

- (a) Appeal of Donald Ridgeway requesting to move to 2300 Preble Avenue, Apt. 1

Donald appeared in person. D. Gerondale advised Donald of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Donald came before the Board in 2011 and was approved to live on Abrams Street. He was recently told by the landlord that he had to move out for seven days because the City put him on notice to fix the building. When Donald returned, the landlord had a "for sale" sign in front of the house.

Donald and his fiancé have a one year old child and plan on getting married. Donald is currently working two jobs.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Donald Ridgeway, address specific, was made by R. Keehan, seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

(b) Appeal of Darrell West requesting to move to 1369 Weise Street

Darrell failed to appear at this time.

A motion to DENY the appeal of Darrell West was made by D. Gerondale, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

*Note: Darrell appears later in the meeting. A motion to reopen is made. Details are at the end of these minutes.*

(c) Appeal of Paul Amenson requesting to move to 1230 St. Clair Street

Paul appeared in person. D. Gerondale advised Paul of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Paul appeared before the board in May and August 2015. He was approved to live on Coppens Road for a period of 60 days. However, he later found out he was scammed on line. The house wasn't available.

Paul provided a letter from ATTIC Correctional Service, Inc. regarding his treatment sessions.

Paul is currently living with his parents. They have encouraged Paul to be responsible and live on his own. Paul stated his job is going well. He currently drives 23 miles to work. This location would be closer to work. An aunt, who is part of his support group, would live close by.

D. Gerondale would like to give Paul a chance at this location but have him come back in 120 days to report how things are going.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Paul Amenson, address specific, for a period of 120 days (until January 13, 2016), was made by D. Gerondale, seconded by Ben Heiman. Three in favor, two opposed (Keehan, De Cremer). Motion carried.

(d) Appeal of Kirk Kyllonen requesting to move to 710 S. Ashland Avenue

Kirk appeared in person. D. Gerondale advised Kirk of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Kirk appeared before the Board in August and was approved at this address for 30 days.

D. Gerondale read into the record a paper signed by Joe Thielman and his wife. They live downstairs and are the parents of a child. The letter states that are aware of Kirk's charges.

Kirk said things are going well. He's in school. He's still in therapy and taking his medication. Kirk asked Jim Drake to write a more detailed letter, but Mr. Drake didn't

feel it was necessary. D. Gerondale commented that most of Jim Drake's letters are form letters.

Kirk provided letters from various doctors, including Ronald Connolly, Ed.D. Mr. Connolly is a Criminal Justice Instructor at NWTC and is Kirk's mentor. Mr. Connolly helped Kirk enroll in school and is in favor of Kirk establishing residence in Green Bay.

D. Gerondale read into the record a letter from Todd Callister, M.D., the psychiatrist Kirk saw while in prison. He states that Kirk is stable when on his medications.

Kirk also provided a mental health release summary from his psychologist, Dr. Charles.

Kirk meets with Jim Drake every week. He stated that Mr. Drake feels Kirk is progressing in his therapy.

Kirk is on a waiting list for the Brown County Treatment Center. He'll be taking it a third time and because of this, was asked to share the skill's he's learned with the other patients.

Kirk is in DBT treatment and individual counseling instead of AODA treatment.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Kirk Kyllonen, address specific, for a period of 90 days (until December 9, 2015), was made by D. Gerondale, seconded by K. De Cremer. Four in favor ,one opposed (Keehan). Motion carried.

D. Gerondale asked Kirk to provide the telephone number of the tenants who live below him. He can bring it when he returns in 90 days.

- (e) Appeal of Thomas Matuszak requesting to move to 126 N. Oakland Avenue

Thomas appeared in person. D. Gerondale advised Thomas of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Thomas does not remember much about the May 2014 incident, as he was intoxicated at the time. He does remember dropping clothes off at the shelter and then approaching someone while in his vehicle. The police arrested him for drunk driving. Thomas did not know the age of the victim at the time.

Thomas was convicted in May 2015 and received 10 years' probation. He has been staying at the Quality Inn on Holmgren Way. Thomas would like to live at this group home on Oakland Avenue.

Thomas stated he will be in a treatment program.

H. Michel asked Thomas to explain the type of group home this is and what type of services he will receive. Thomas stated he doesn't know because he's never been in a group home before.

Karen L. Anderson -- *Brown County Human Services, Adult Protective Unit*. Karen explained that they wanted Tom to try to explain his situation before she and his sisters spoke on his behalf. Karen previously submitted a letter to the Board explaining Thomas' situation.

Thomas has a permanent mental disability. He was assessed in January 2015, which indicated he needs a guardian due to his cognitive disability. Brown County has petitioned for guardianship. The hearing is set for October 22, 2015.

In the meantime, Thomas has been homeless. He is trying to meet the conditions of his parole and probation and find a place to live. His family has been helping with the cost of staying at the Quality Inn and family members have been rotating staying with him.

Thomas has been living with his mother his whole life. However, she is now in her 80's and can no longer support his needs. This is all new and difficult for Thomas. It's difficult for him to communicate his next moves because of his cognitive delays.

D. Gerondale asked if his living in the group home would affect the other people living there. Ms. Anderson stated it would not. He has been assessed by the owner of the group home, taking into consideration the others who live there. The group home is staffed 24/7. The other residents in the home are cognitive delayed so they cannot live on their own. Thomas is on a bracelet and will be monitored. Thomas stated he is allowed out between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Peggy Johnson – 2558 Woodridge Lane, Green Bay. Peggy is Thomas' sister. She stated there are eight in their family and this has been a struggle for them. They are all contributing so Thomas has a place to stay. Thomas only has a second grade education. He was assessed at Mendota and was there almost a year. Thomas needs to be in this group home to be in an environment around other people. Their sister and brother are currently Thomas's advocates, but they have petitioned the court to have someone take on his guardianship. Thomas worked as a janitor at James River for 10 years.

Beth Ehlen – 220 S. Clay Street, De Pere. Beth is Thomas' sister. She stated Thomas has taken care of their mother his entire life. He helps with the elderly, including volunteering at the homeless shelter. He's good person.

Thomas stated he hasn't had a drink in over two years. He collects social security disability.

Ms. Anderson stated family currently has power of attorney for healthcare and finance. The family has requested to resign these decision making duties, so Brown County has petitioned for a guardian of the person. This will be held October 22. A representative payee through Brown County has been referred.

H. Michel asked Thomas what he likes to do while staying at the hotel. Thomas stated he likes to read, take a walk and go out for coffee or a sandwich.

H. Michel asked if he's seen the group home yet. Thomas said he's only seen it once. H. Michel asked if he'd like to live there. Thomas said he hopes so. He doesn't know what it's going to be like but he's a good person and easy to get along with.

H. Michel pointed out that if the guardianship goes through in October, he will no longer be able to make his own decisions. Ms. Anderson stated support will be through Family Care and he has been found eligible for long term funding. This will include a case manager and RN. This team of people, along with his probation agent, will be helping guide the next step if Thomas finds it difficult in the group home.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Thomas Matuszak, address specific, was made by H. Michel, seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

(f) Appeal of Jerry D. Scott requesting to move to 1237 E. Walnut Street, Apt. C

Jerry appeared in person. D. Gerondale advised Jerry of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Jerry stated that five years ago, his wife had an addiction to drugs. He was using marijuana and his wife was using prescription pain killers. His wife's addiction became severe and the police got involved. They were both taken to jail. Jerry's charges were dropped. His wife was charged and convicted of exposing a child to harmful material. They both got clean and sober. However, last year his wife became addicted again.

In March 2015, they were raided by the Brown County Drug Task Force. Jerry's charges were party to a crime, possession of THC, possession of paraphernalia, two counts of misdemeanor child neglect and possession of a controlled substance. They also reinstated charges from five years ago (exposing a child to harmful material and party to a crime).

Jerry went to jail and was offered a six month plea deal by the district attorney. The judge lowered his sentence and Jerry was let out that day. Jerry completed AODA five years ago and had an AODA assessment this last time. He's been clean for five years. They felt no treatment was necessary.

H. Michel asked what kind of materials the child was exposed to. Jerry stated it was pornography and videos. Jerry works a lot of hours and some things happened while he was at work. He admits he should have been more astute and done more to correct the situation.

His wife will be in jail until next year. She is set up for inpatient rehab afterwards for at least six months. They currently have no contact.

Jerry is homeless but occasionally stays with his nephew in apartment B. Jerry wants to move to apartment C. He will live there with his children. They are currently living with his wife's aunt.

Jerry is a delivery driver for Topper's Pizza. He works 50 to 60 hours per week. He stops and checks on his kids randomly a couple times a night.

H. Michel asked if Jerry or his children have gone through any counseling. Jerry stated they went through extensive family and marriage counseling.

Jerry has lived in Green Bay most of his life.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Jerry Scott, address specific, was made by R. Keehan, seconded by H. Michel. Three in favor, two opposed (Gerondale, De Cremer). Motion carried.

### 3. Review and discuss Sex Offender Resolution Relating to 2015 Assembly Bill 290

D. Gerondale stated he is not satisfied with the Bill. It fails to take into account situations in different communities. The way it is currently written, sexual offenders have to be released to the county where the offense occurred. He feels larger cities become a dumping ground. It also fails to recognize the severity of the sexual offense of the child. There is a big difference between a first degree sexual assault of a child and a fifth degree sexual assault of a child.

D. Gerondale feels this Board tries to recognize the severity of the charge in terms of the risk to the community. This Bill ignores that. He feels there should be (1) a provision that allows for equal disbursement based upon population, or (2) a provision that allows communities to set up boards like theirs to assess risk and to make an assessment on whether that person should or should not be allowed in that community.

For example, if the City of Green Bay represents 30% of the population, they shouldn't have to take more than 30%. Secondly, if the person wants to reside within that community, it should be the right of the municipality to set up a review board to look at the severity and the concentration within that community.

H. Michel does not feel the City would become a dumping ground. What we hear from almost everyone who comes before them is that they finally found somebody to rent to them. She doesn't feel the ordinance affects the landlords as much. The landlords are big companies and they won't rent to them. They will not rent to felons. People come to Green Bay because of the bus line. Most of these people don't have a driver's license and need to rely on our resources.

Kristen K. Bohnert, Assistant City Attorney, stated that officially the City Attorney's Office and the Police Department are not taking a position. The reason the Bill was written is because some of the bigger cities, such as Milwaukee, don't have anywhere to put people. It's become a very big problem. They are having concentrated areas of sex offenders which causes a lot of problems in the bigger cities. The Department of

Corrections is having difficulty placing people, so they are trying to regulate it in order to have more options.

D. Gerondale feels it's just the opposite. The cities are upset because when a sex offender is released, it ends up being the larger cities that take the vast majority. It's not based on total population. When landlords won't rent to them, they end up being concentrated in one part of the city, which is worse.

K. Bohnert stated the Bill specifically states that the Department of Corrections make every reasonable effort to put them back in the city, village or town where the offense occurred. If that isn't possible, then they look at the greater county. If the majority of sex offenders commit the offense in the City of Green Bay, that is where they will try to place them.

D. Gerondale stated the DOC's accountability is not there. "To the best of their ability" means nothing.

H. Michel disagrees. Because of her job, she knows several agents and sex offenders. They have tried placing people who weren't taken because they either weren't allowing it or they can't afford it. There are people in Green Bay who are homeless because they have nowhere to go. There are people living in storage units because they have nowhere to go. The agents are telling them they cannot live there and can only stay there a couple days and then move on. This is a very difficult task for them to be able to monitor their clients when they don't know if their client is at this address today, tomorrow, the next day – where he is. That's why so many of them are on GPS and monitoring because they need the assistance.

D. Gerondale feels if that is the root of the issue, then a law should be written that says landlords have to rent to sexual offenders; they can't discriminate against someone who legally has a right to live anywhere they want. If you can't discriminate against race, color or creed in renting, then you shouldn't be able to discriminate against sex offenders. But business will not allow that to happen.

K. De Cremer stated she has 15 years of running landlord corporate apartments in Green Bay, and it's based on felony record and credit score.

K. Bohnert stated another reason they are proposing this Bill is because of people not registering. If they can't find anywhere to go, they won't register. This would Bill would make it easier for people to register and then we'd know where they are. A lot of people are going underground.

D. Gerondale stated he's had many meetings with the Department of Corrections where they bring this up. Dean feels this is a "bunch of crap." They've got to do their job. These people are breaking the law and they should do their job and put them back in prison. Dean has zero tolerance for this excuse. The law is very specific. If you don't register, you go back to prison.

D. Gerondale feels this Board has a lot of compassion for people. They try to do the right thing and balance it off, which is very difficult. He feels the Department of Corrections doesn't like the community having a say in this.

Darrell West, who is a registered sex offender, is looking at this from a three point angle – as a victim as a child, as a perpetrator of a heinous crime and also as a parent of a survivor of this. Darrell believes you cannot just lump all of them in one community. He is now a grandfather. What he did was wrong, but it's about taking ownership, about taking responsibility and doing the right thing.

A lot of sex offenders he's run across try to do as Darrell has done – take ownership. You have to want it for yourself. Yes, the Department of Corrections needs to do its job. Darrell works with several sex offenders who are actively on probation and doing everything under the sun. Darrell finds it appalling because here he is doing the right thing, but yet there's a tight leash on him. Darrell has no problem with it because he has nothing to cover up.

D. Gerondale feels that is why it's better left to the local community. Some guidelines could be written in the Bill that gives it some standardization, but yet gives the community some rights to make the final call.

Ron Connolly is present at the meeting and stated he missed an opportunity to speak in support of Kirk Kyllonen. He wrote a letter on Kirk's behalf. Ron knows this is a tough issue. He has 19 years in policing and is a criminal justice instructor at NWTC. He is a volunteer for Community Circles of Support. He works with people who have recently been released from incarceration. He's worked hand in hand with probation and parole and he knows some of the burden they're under. He also knows the dynamics that happen within a community.

Mr. Connolly struggles with the question, "Where are people supposed to go?" It's no doubt these people made a poor choice but a community comes together and trusts the judicial system to come up with an appropriate penalty. They say, "Here's what you need to serve to pay penance for what you did." They serve that penance and do everything the community demands of them. Then they get out. Some are not remorseful for what they've done. But there are a number of people who get out of prison who are sorry for what they've done and are making a legitimate effort to try to reintegrate into the community as law abiding, productive members.

As a volunteer for Circles of Support, he sees a number of people who are trying to do the right thing and are searching hard for places to live and work. Yet, over and over and over again, they get the door slammed in their face. Mr. Connolly admires their tenacity and resilience. In fact, he sees in them many of the qualities that employers and landlords wish most people had. It's just that they have a monitor place on them because of the poor choice they made in the past.

There is value in monitoring people until they've proven that they are actually going to be law abiding and productive.



Mr. Connolly does not see the cities as dumping grounds. He sees them as the same resource for people getting out of incarceration as for anyone else. The reason we have cities is because this is where the jobs are. These folks get out of prison and they want to work. If you disperse them throughout the state, the jobs aren't there, especially the ones they are most qualified for. This is also where the transportation is to get to those jobs.

Those that come before the Board are asking for an opportunity to prove to the community that they can once again rejoin them as productive individuals and law abiding citizens. They just want a chance.

D. Gerondale feels that is what this Board does. That is why he likes the local feel rather than writing it in a state law which doesn't allow for that. What frustrates this Board is that most of the community doesn't care unless it affects them.

Mr. Connolly said what they don't realize is that if you slam the doors on ex-offenders and leave them with no other choice but recidivism or going underground, then that's what you're left with. The community has a stake in being more receptive to helping people reintegrate than they do in alienating them.

Mr. Connolly said it makes no sense that the utility company cannot turn off a person's utilities in the winter for fear of someone dying, but yet a person has to leave the TLP when their time is up with nowhere to go and could freeze to death outside.

D. Gerondale stated the proposed City of Green Bay Resolution states the proposed Bill, as it is now written, is not good.

Ald. Scannell (District 7), a member of the Protection and Welfare Committee, asked the Board to look over the proposed Resolution and let Kristen Bohnert know if they would like any changes made to it by October 1.

D. Gerondale asked for a roll call regarding the proposed State Assembly Bill 290. H. Michel is not taking a position on it until she reads it thoroughly through; D. Gerondale is against it as it's currently written; B. Heiman is against it as currently written; R. Keehan is against it as currently written; K. De Cremer is against it as currently written.

A motion was made by B. Heiman to hear the appeal of Darrell West at this time and seconded by K. De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

b) Appeal of Darrell West requesting to move to 1369 Weise Street

Darrell appeared in person. D. Gerondale advised Darrell of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Darrell was convicted of second degree sexual assault in 2004. The victim was age 14. Darrell stated he takes full responsibility for his actions.

Darrell has not provided a letter from the landlord. However, he is currently living at 1369 Weise Street. Prior to this he lived on Shawano Avenue and then the Village Inn.

Darrell did nine months at the Brown County jail.

D. Gerondale told Darrell he is in violation of the ordinance, as he has not been approved at this location.

Darrell will be put on next month's agenda. He will have a letter from the landlord at that time and employment documentation.

Darrell would like to WITHDRAW his application at this time and be put on the October agenda.

4. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** October 14, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting date of October 14, 2015 was confirmed.

A motion to adjourn was made by H. Michel, seconded by B. Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.